

Remarks/Arguments

Preliminarily, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 21-25 and 54-58. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-13, 15-20, 26-53 and 59-67 have been cancelled. Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 21-25 and 54-58, as amended, will be pending.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 96/35756 to Chikaoka *et al.* ("Chikaoka"). Claims 1-13, 15-20, 26-53, and 59-65 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chikaoka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,674,922 to Igarashi *et al.* ("Igarashi") as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,434,196 to Ohkawa *et al.* ("Ohkawa").

Applicants' amendments to the claims are believed to address these rejections. Specifically, only claims indicated as allowed by the Examiner remain pending. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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